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RIAD KAMAL HAGGAG
... accused of espionage

Airliner's Hijacker Credited as Spy, But Who Employs Him Is Mystery

From News Dispatches

Three nations agreed yesterday that Riad Kamal Haggag, who hijacked an Egyptian airliner on Tuesday was involved in espionage—but differed on whom he worked for and how important an agent he was.

The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram charged that Haggag, 41, once worked for the CIA. In 1961 and 1962 he was paid about \$750 by an American military attache to recruit the services of an Egyptian military spy and offered more money if he helped American agents topple Egyptian President Nasser, Al Ahram said.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said that as far as is known Haggag

never had any contact with American officials.

He said Haggag's espionage activities appeared to have been confined to some part-time work for Egyptian authorities. Haggag, who ran a Cairo snack bar, was very small time, the American added.

In Amman, Jordan, where Haggag has been granted asylum, Jordanian authorities made no comment beyond that Haggag himself claims to have been a top-level Egyptian intelligence agent.

Haggag will hold a news conference in a few days, sources' said.

The 41 passengers of the hijacked airliner flew to Cairo on another Egyptian airliner yesterday. Later the pilot flew

the hijacked plane back to Cairo.

In other developments in the Middle East, Syrian President Nureddin Atassi charged that U.S. Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall came to the Middle East to "persecute and torture" good Arab nationalists in Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Atassi, either intentionally or not, was apparently thinking of Udall as many Arab newspapers have during his current tour of the Middle East as "Interior Minister"—a title that means boss of internal security in Arab states.

Udall has already been in Saudi Arabia and Jordan. He arrived in Kuwait yesterday for a two-day visit.